

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 FTC-01 IGA-02 /069 W

----- 106597

R 031555Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9797

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED DENIAL MOVES FOCUS OF COMMENT AWAY FROM ANDREOTTI

REF: A. ROME 14256 B. ROME 14343

1. ALL MEDIA REPORT PROMINENTLY LOCKHEED'S STATEMENT THAT THE THREE DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED BY L'ESPRESSO APPEAR TO BE FALSE. A FEW COMMENTATORS, INCLUDING THOSE OF AVANTI AND OF LA STAMPA, SEE THE LOCKHEED PRESS SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT AS TOO EQUIVOCAL. LOCKHEED'S SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT, INCLUDING DAL H. DANIELS' CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF HAVING WRITTEN THE NOTE REFERRING TO AN APPOINTMENT BETWEEN ANDREOTTI AND CARL KOTCHIAN, WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR MORNING PAPERS, BUT SHOULD RELIEVE SOME OF THE DOUBTS EXPRESSED. FOR THE MOST PART, HOWEVER, THE DOCUMENTS ARE BEING TREATED AS FORGERIES, AND THE EMPHASIS IS NOW ON PM ANDREOTTI'S NON-INVOLVEMENT IN DEALINGS WITH LOCKHEED.

2. INEVITABLY, SPECULATION ON "WHO BENEFITS" FROM PUBLICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS IS RAMPANT. FORTUNATELY,  
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THE MOST POPULAR EMERGING INTERPRETATIONS DO NOT SEE

USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE RELEASE OF THE APPARENTLY FALSE DOCUMENTS. THE CREDIBILITY OF EARLIER CLAIMS THAT EARNEST HAUSER, THE WIDELY-PRESUMED SOURCE OF THE DOCUMENTS, ACTED FOR THE USG OR SPECIFICALLY FOR THE CIA HAS BEEN TARNISHED BY REVELATIONS THAT HAUSER HAS APPARENTLY BEEN INVOLVED IN UNSAVORY DEALINGS IN THE PAST, OCCUPIED ONLY A RATHER LOW LEVEL POSITION WITH LOCKHEED AND ATTEMPTED TO SELL DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE DOCUMENTS TO DIFFERENT NEWSPAPERS.

3. THE COMMENT IN THE PSI DAILY AVANTI CONCLUDES THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS EITHER THE RESULT OF COMPETITION BETWEEN US AIRCRAFT COMPANIES FOR SALES TO TURKEY OR AN ASPECT OF "US ARMS DIPLOMACY." REGARDING THE FORMER HYPOTHESIS, AVANTI SUGGESTS THAT THE DOCUMENT RELEASE WAS INSPIRED BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS, WHICH WANTED TO BLOCK FURTHER SALES OF THE ITALIAN-MADE F-104 TO TURKEY IN ORDER TO SELL ITS OWN PHANTOM AIRCRAFT THERE.

4. EVEN THOUGH THE LATEST LOCKHEED CONTROVERSY IS FADING DEEPER INTO FANTASY, THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PM'S NAME LEAVES A BAD TASTE IN MANY MONTHS. IT HAS ALSO REVITALIZED PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL, INCLUDING CALLS FOR AN EARLIER CONVENING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH LOCKHEED AS ITS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS ON A PRIORITY BASIS. BEAUDRY

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**TAGS:** PINT, EIND, IT, US, (ANDREOTTI, GIULIO)  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC FLORENCE MILAN NAPLES  
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